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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,874	03/31/2001	Carolyn Ramsey Catan	US010157	7124

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIMBERLY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/823,874	Applicant(s) CATAN, CAROLYN RAMSEY	
	Examiner Kimberly D. Nguyen	Art Unit 2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Acknowledgement is made of Amendment filed 28 October 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 8-11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Montanari et al. (US 5,478,990; hereinafter “Montanari”).

Montanari teaches a method for tracking descriptive information about a changeable article, comprising the steps of:

attaching a machine readable label (MRL) having a unique code to an article;

at a first location, storing a correlation between descriptive information about the article and the unique code in a data store; and

at one or more second locations, reading the unique code to obtain at least a portion of the descriptive information using the correlation in the data store (see figs. 1-6; col. 6, lines 10-36; col. 7, lines 39-61; col. 10, lines 19-27; col. 10, lines 51-61; col. 11, lines 8-61; col. 14, lines 11-16).

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montanari in view of O'Hagan et al. (US 5,821,512). The teachings of Montanari have been discussed above.

Montanari fails to specifically teach a tracking information system wherein the correlation in the data store is automatically deleted.

O'Hagan teaches a system for tracking information 18 wherein the correlation in the data store is automatically deleted responsively to one or more predetermined events (see fig. 6, step 318; col. 11, lines 4-34).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the notoriously old and well known automatic data deletion as taught by O'Hagan to the teachings of Montanari in order to ease the users from tracking the items themselves (i.e., one will automatically delete the item from the list if the item had been sold out) and to further prevent unwanted duplication of items being processed/purchased.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7 and 14-17 are allowed.
6. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Montanari as modified by O'Hagan fails to teach a step of the correlation in the data store is automatically deleted responsively to one or more predetermined events, wherein the one or more predetermined events includes the passage of a predetermined period of time after the step of storing a correlation, and wherein data including profile data characterizing a user and/or user preferences.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of Montanari as modified by O'Hagan in order to obtain a step of the correlation in the data store is automatically deleted responsively to one or more predetermined events, wherein the one or more predetermined events includes the passage of a predetermined period of time after the step of storing a correlation, as set forth in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

8. In response to the Applicant's argument that "Please note that scanning or reading to add information is not the same as reading or scanning to obtain information." (see page 3, 2nd paragraph, lines 4-6), the Examiner respectfully requests Applicant to further review Montanari reference that "Unlike conventional systems, the present invention utilizes computers to scan labels produced during a production process to input information into a computer database for later retrieval and access." (see col. 6, lines 10-14) and "A PIN tag identifies each product with a unique serial number that which correlates with information relating to the measurement of a product, (which may include the weight, size, etc.) date and time of processing, description, grade, etc., as well as other desired information related to each product." (see col. 9, line 55 through col. 10, line 9). Therefore, the Examiner believes that Montanari uses a PIN number to track/obtain information related to a specific product at any processing stages and accordingly Montanari still meets the limitations as set forth in claim 8 and its dependent claims.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

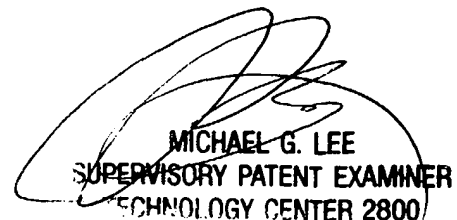
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-1798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-8792.



KDN
2 December 2003



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800